

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Park and Recreation Conference Room  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Monday, July 13, 2009  
3:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Bryan Frye, Tom Roth, John Stevens, Andy Solter

**Absent:** Glen Dey, Matt Goolsby,

**Also Present:** Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Karen Walker, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, Sharon Dickgrafe, Assistant City Attorney, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk, Phyllis Mc Comb, Joe Johnson, Ken Arnold, Curt Van Boening, Pat O'Connor, Debra Miller Steven, citizens.

Interim President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item 1: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Solter, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board meeting minutes of June 8, 2009.**

**Item 2A: Name Northwest Corner of Mt. Vernon and Bluff, Grandview Heights Park**

Kupper stated this land is obligated to Storm Water Management. Walking paths, picnic table and benches have been installed to give the area a more park like appearance, much like Meadowlark Park.

Elena Ingle, 2608 Meadow Lane, Wichita, representing the Grandview Heights Homeowners Association, presented the Park Board with an additional map showing the northwest corner of Mt. Vernon and Bluff to be named Grandview Heights Park, District III. The Grandview Heights Homeowners Association petitions the Board of Park Commissioners to name the northwest corner of Mt. Vernon and Bluff, Grandview Heights Park and for the installation of signage identifying the area as a park. For future improvements, Ingle requested a playground for school age children.

Solter asked if Association members performed any maintenance on the area. Ingle said they frequently cleaned up trash and debris in the area and planned on continuing this service. Solter asked if the Association was planning any improvements other than the playground. Ingle replied the Association had been told there would be an outdoor grill installed. The Association did not plan on any other plantings.

Frye asked if there were stoplights at the corner or crosswalks. Ingle replied it was one block away.

Roth inquired about an additional parcel highlighted on the map. Kupper identified it as empty lots for Storm Water Management use.

Solter asked if any other naming requests had been made for this parcel of land. Kupper said none had been made.

Dickgrafe had no concerns about the request.

**On a motion by Solter, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE naming the Northwest Corner of Mt. Vernon and Bluff, Grandview Heights Park.**

**Item 2B: Linwood Elementary School Requesting Land in South Linwood Park**

Martin C. Libhart, Superintendent of The Wichita Public Schools along with Kenton Cox, Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architects, provided the Park Board with additional handouts of a map and the Park Board minutes from February 11, 2002 when the Park Board agreed to negotiate an agreement with USD 259 to locate a school in Linwood Park. Libhart corrected agenda item 2B, stating he was not requesting land, just additional usage.

Cox explained that with the 2008 Bond Issue allowing additional improvements at Linwood School, a total of 81 parking spaces are required by off street parking standards, although they are planning expansion for 101 spaces. USD 259 is seeking approval to install an additional 50 spaces. The current plan expands 28 spaces to an existing parking lot south which connects with Osie Street and expands the bus loading lane with 22 spaces of additional parking.

Kupper clarified that OCI requirements were for 81 spaces and USD 259 was requesting 101.

Stevens questioned Libhart about existing signage which directs vehicles at the school, asking if this can be removed or higher grade signs be installed. Libhart said he would address this issue and agreed the signs were of poor quality.

Frye asked what construction material would be used for the additional parking. Cox stated they were intending on using concrete. Solter suggested for drainage and park appearance, the use of a porous surface would be preferred. Kupper stated there was a grass parking lot at Riverside Park and there were surplus materials to donate for use in this area. Libhart questioned if this would meet off-street parking standards. He also questioned usability during inclement weather. Kupper stated there were no detectible differences.

Frye asked if there were any public comment on the issue. Van Boening, citizen and member of the Wichita Audubon Society, encouraged the use of green parking for drainage and appearance to the park. He asked if any trees would be lost at the bus parking area. Cox said none would be removed.

Solter complemented the design effort to save existing trees.

Frye asked if the parking lot was gated, Cox replied it was not. The parking lot could be used for overflow parking at Linwood Park.

Libhart stated four point eight (4.8) acres were owned by UDS 259 and eight (8) acres were maintained.

Dickgrafe saw no legal restrictions in the request.

Kupper said he would visit with Kansas Wildlife and Parks to see if there would be loss of green space by the additional parking.

Frye asked for the start and completion date of the project. Cox stated the anticipated start date was spring 2010 with a completion date in 2011.

**On a motion by Stevens, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to allow the addition of 50 parking spaces to bring the total parking spaces to 101, subject to constructing as much of the area as approved by off street parking requirements, green parking spaces.**

**Item 3A: Trail Markers: Submission of Quotes and Poems**

Richard Schodorf, 2330 N. Valleyview, Wichita, presented the Park Board with the chosen quotes for Trail Markers to be installed along designated pathways. Park staff has approved the quotes. Quotes are divided into categories; People of Kansas, Sports, and Poems. The addition of movie quotes is being investigated. The downtown area will be installed first and will be a combination of location marker, map, and quote. Mid August is the targeted installation date. Construction design allows for the content to be changed approximately every 18 months. This will allow the signs to remain current and interesting. Signs will be placed at eye level.

Solter remarked he enjoyed reading the quotes and thought they will be enjoyable for citizens and visitors, as well. Roth noted only one quote was from Wyatt Earp, and encouraged more quotes from that era. Stevens commended the process of changing quotes to keep interest in the trails.

Pat O'Connor, 2401 W. 27<sup>th</sup> N., Wichita, presented an additional handout of a poem entitled Sam Shusterman by Charles Plymell. The poem had initially been rejected for offensive language, but with the authors' permission, it was altered to be more appropriate for public display. O'Connor asked the Park Board to add this poem to the submissions.

Stevens voiced his approval to add this poem to the approved list.

Frye asked if each trail would be dedicated to one form of quotes. Schodorf affirmed that this was the intended design. The Park Board commended Schodorf's hard work on the project.

**On a motion by Solter, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the quotes as requested with the addition of the poem entitled, Sam Shusterman.**

**Item 3B: Review of Current Park Projects; 1. West Douglas 2. Kingsbury 3. Chapin**

Larry Hoetmer, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Department of Park and Recreation, presented information and visual graphics to the Park Board about ongoing park projects.

**West Douglas Park**, District 4, is receiving a new open shelter and restroom combination. The current restroom is in very poor condition and the existing shelter, built in the 50's, is deteriorating. The existing

open shelter will be removed and turned back into open space. A new restroom/open shelter with a 1' raised stage will be situated near the parking lot in proximate view of the playground. The restroom portion would face the parking lot with the shelter open to green space. Lights are sensor activated in the restrooms. The shelter will be approximately 30' x 30'.

Target construction would begin in spring 2010.

**Chapin**, District 3, is currently under construction by Cornejo and Sons. The park will include the city's first Dog Park, a radio control airplane area with parking, mountain bike trail, and 6' wide gravel walking trail. Signs identify the use of each area. Asphalt roads access the park from McArthur Road. As the park is situated on a closed landfill, a pre stress no footing concept is being utilized.

There is a September completion date for this project.

Frye suggested the park be named Sunflower Park. Solter asked that naming of this park be placed on the August agenda. Walker is meeting with the South Central Neighborhood Association on Thursday to give them an update on the park. Solter asked Walker if she would get their input for naming of the park.

**Kingsbury**, District 6, is still in the planning phase. The area close to the river would be more passive, where areas nearer the highway would be used for more activity. The progressive park is inclusive of a canoe launch, fishing piers, jet-ski and rowing course, swimming beach and wake-board park. Shelters, Amphitheater and special event shelters are planned along with bridges to cross the lake. Cornejo is currently extracting sand around the designated land forms. Engineering decisions are being finalized for Cornejo's mining efforts.

This is a 10-15 year plan which can be implemented in phases. Further refinements will be ongoing.

The Board was appreciative for the vision of a signature park in Wichita.

#### **Item 4: Review of Pending Issues**

None.

#### **Item 5: Updates from the Director and Acting President**

A copy of Recreation Management: State of the Industry, June 2009 issue, was provided to each Park Board member.

Kupper reported on the ongoing process to cut one million from the Park and Recreation budget and the possible privatization of mowing. Questionnaires are being sent to pre qualify vendors for the bid process. Bids would be broken down into fifteen (15) regions.

Solter asked for the total cost of mowing. Kupper stated approximately 4.5 million. Roth asked the number of people benefit eligible that would be laid off due to mowing privatization. Kupper said all 66.5 positions are benefit eligible. Solter asked the percentage of salary dollars in relation to benefits. Kupper said between 31 and 33 %.

Kupper stated that partnerships are also being explored for recreation providers to assist with recreation centers. There is ongoing discussion to eliminate one recreation center director position.

Stevens asked what the scenario would look like to keep mowing parks and outsource ROW and riverbank areas. Kupper said all options are being considered. Stevens asked what the average length of employment is for the employees affected by outsourcing. Kupper said the majority of affected employees have been with the city 15 or more years.

The Playful City application has been reviewed and accepted by KaBoom, making Wichita the first Playful City in Kansas.

Bryan Frye and Andy Solter have received their reappointment to the Park Board.

**Item 6: Issues on the Horizon**

Frye suggested the September Park Board meeting and Fall Retreat be scheduled for September 19, 2009. There were no conflicts with present Park Board members.

**On a motion by Frye, second by Roth, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SCHEDULE the September meeting and Fall Retreat, September 19, 2009, time and location to be determined.**

Dickgrafe reported the revisions to Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of Parks, and Park Ordinances will be presented at the August 2009 meeting, with anticipation to discuss and approve at the September Retreat. Walker will present the revisions to the Park Board in August, as Dickgrafe will be absent.

**Item 7: Adjourn**

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:35 p.m.

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Bryan Frye, Interim President

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Lee Ann Sack, Clerk